



PIPED IN NEWSLETTER



July 2026

LOCAL 324



Joel Morrison, Kurtis Szymczak, John Stalker (L-R)

Local 324 Business Manager Update

UA Local 324 continues to experience strong levels of work throughout Vancouver Island. The majority of current activity remains concentrated in the multi-residential sector, where demand for skilled tradespeople continues to be high. While other regions across Canada, including Toronto and Vancouver, have seen notable slowdowns in residential construction, the Victoria market has remained resilient and continues to provide substantial opportunities for our members.

Construction is well underway on Harris Green Village, a landmark redevelopment in downtown Victoria that will provide significant employment opportunities for UA Local 324 members for years to come.

The project will deliver more than 1,500 purpose-built rental homes along with over 100,000 square feet of commercial space, making it the largest residential development ever undertaken in Victoria.

Our members are only months away from completing the new Cowichan District Hospital, a project that has been one of the most significant achievements for UA Local 324. The skill, professionalism, and dedication demonstrated by our members throughout this \$1.5 billion dollar project have showcased the strength of our workforce and reinforced the value we bring to major infrastructure projects across Vancouver Island.

As work on the Cowichan Hospital approaches completion, new opportunities are already underway. Construction has begun on the new \$300 million Nanaimo Cancer Centre, another important healthcare investment that will provide substantial work for our plumbers, pipefitters, sprinkler fitters, welders, and apprentices.



Ryan Eigler

Industrial Sector Changes

This year also brought difficult news for our industrial sector with the shutdown of the Crofton Pulp Mill in the spring. The closure of the mill was especially significant for UA Local 324, as our members originally helped build the facility in the 1960's. Over the decades, many members have benefited from annual shutdown work and maintenance opportunities at the mill.

The Crofton Pulp Mill represented UA Local 324's largest industrial sector, and its closure marks the end of an important chapter in our local's history. We recognize the impact this has had on members, families, and the broader community. Despite this setback, the union remains committed to identifying and pursuing new industrial opportunities that can help support our membership in the years ahead.



Callum Calder



Brian Ogroske

Victoria Shipyard Work

Victoria Shipyard continues to be a major source of employment for UA Local 324 members. In February, members ratified a new four-year collective agreement that includes a 29% wage increase over the term of the agreement. This represents a significant achievement for our members and reflects the importance of their contributions to the shipyard and marine industry. Work at the shipyard remains steady, with ongoing projects involving work on the HMCS Winnipeg frigate and recently completed work on the Disney Magic Cruise Ship. We have two additional cruise ships scheduled for this fall. In addition, the Victoria In-Service Support Contract (VISCC) submarine program continues to employ approximately 30 members and is expected to provide stable employment into the future.

The pipe fabrication shop in Shawnigan Lake is also operating at full capacity. Our members are fabricating pipe spools for the new Polar icebreakers being built at Vancouver Shipyards. To keep pace with demand, the fabrication shop is currently running both day and afternoon shifts. This work demonstrates the skill, professionalism, and adaptability of UA Local 324 members in meeting the needs of major marine projects.

Future Submarine Work

Canada has selected German shipbuilder ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) as the preferred bidder to build up to 12 new submarines as part of the Canadian Patrol Submarine Project. These new submarines will replace Canada's aging Victoria-class fleet and represent one of the largest defense procurement projects in Canadian history, with an estimated budget of approximately \$24 billion.

This investment represents a significant opportunity for Canada's marine trades and shipbuilding industry. With the extensive experience our members have gained working on naval vessels, we are hopeful that UA Local 324 members will play an important role in maintaining and supporting these new submarines throughout their service life.



Father and Son - Chris & John Stalker (R-L)

Training and Facility Operations

Our new union hall and training facility is now fully operational and has become an important resource for both current and future members. The facility is functioning very well and is providing expanded opportunities for training, education, and member engagement. We have recently launched elevated work platform training and are continuing to expand our training offerings. By September, we expect to offer confined space and fall protection certification courses, further enhancing the qualifications and safety preparedness of our members. These training programs are essential in ensuring that UA Local 324 members remain, competitive, and ready to meet the evolving demands of the industry.

Fleet Maintenance Facility

Fleet Maintenance Facility is currently employing 48 UA Local 324 members. Work at the facility remains steady, and members continue to provide essential services that support Canada's naval operations. Later this year, FDTLC West will enter into collective bargaining with the Treasury Board to negotiate a new collective agreement. This process will be an important opportunity to address wages, working conditions, and other key issues affecting members employed at Fleet Maintenance Facility. The union remains committed to advocating for fair and equitable outcomes for all members involved in this bargaining process.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead, UA Local 324 is well positioned for continued growth and opportunity. Strong activity in the residential, commercial, and marine sectors, combined with our ongoing investment in training and member support, provides a solid foundation for the future.

We thank all members for their continued hard work and commitment to the values of UA Local 324. Together, we will continue to build a strong future for our union and the communities we serve.

Fraternally Yours,
Jim Noon

Member Support and Mental Health Services

UA Local 324 remains committed to supporting the overall well-being of our members and their families. We recognize that members may face challenges both on and off the job, and we are committed to providing support and connecting members with appropriate services when needed. Mental health services are available through the union, and we encourage anyone who may need assistance to reach out to the union hall for information about available resources.

It's Okay to

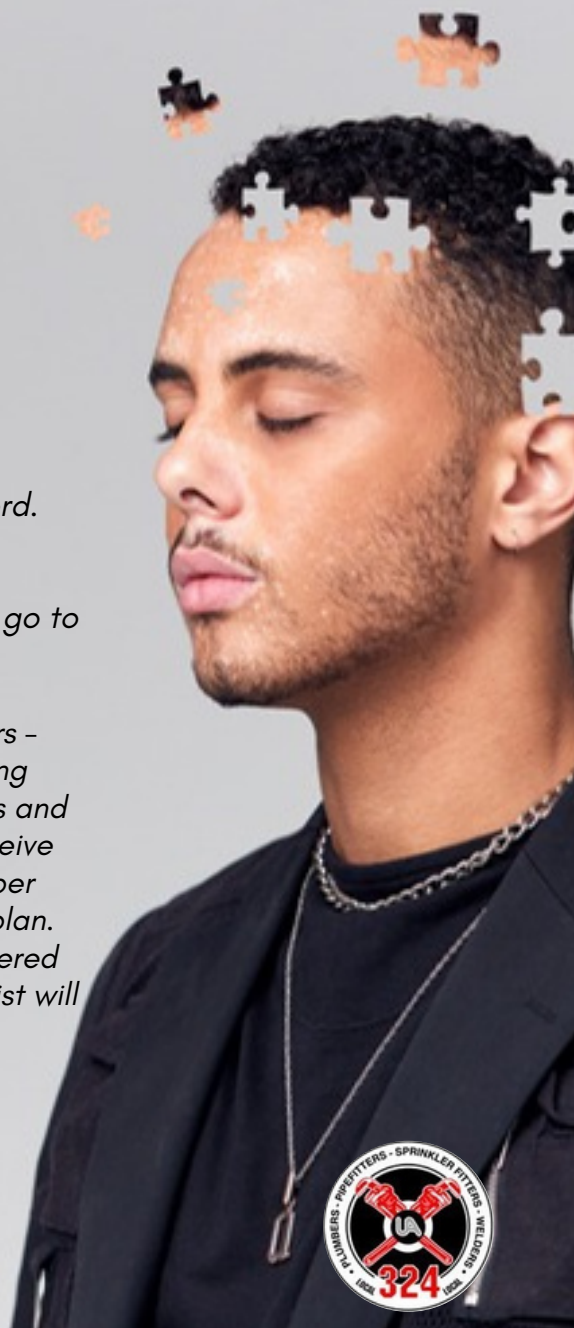
***Ask for
Help***

***Options for Support
Resources & Counselling***

Green Health offers free in person mental health counselling in Langford. Call 250-410-3058 or email wellness@wjets.ca to schedule an appointment. For more information go to www.wjets.ca/greenhealth/.

BC Association of Clinical Counsellors – www.bcacc.ca offers local counselling services in person or virtual. Members and eligible spouses/dependents will receive 80% reimbursement up to \$1200.00 per year through our extended benefits plan. Only fees charged by licensed registered counsellor, psychologist, or psychiatrist will be reimbursed.

Member & Family Assistance Program for all types of counselling services at no cost. Virtual or by phone call, www.uacanada.ca/wellness or call 1-833-778-2627 (UAMAP).



UA Local 324 Entertainment

UA Local 324 participated in the TC 10KM run on Sunday April 26th. We had over 40 members take part in this years run. Thank you to everyone for signing up, we look forward to next years run!

The UA Local 324 Golf Tournament, held on June 6th at Olympic View Golf Course and was another tremendous success. The event brought together members, retirees, contractors, and industry partners for a day of networking, and friendly competition. Events such as the golf tournament help strengthen the bonds within our Local and provide valuable opportunities for members and their families to connect outside the workplace. Special thanks go to the Entertainment Committee, volunteers, sponsors, and all participants who contributed to making the event such a success.



TC 10KM Run - Team UA 324



UA Local 324 Charity Golf Tournament

Hiring Outlook

Hiring remains minimal at this time. As long as we have qualified members available on the out-of-work list, there is little need for additional recruitment. Our priority continues to be ensuring our existing membership remains employed and that contractors have access to the skilled workforce they require.

The one constant in our hiring efforts is the recruitment of first-year apprentices. Entry-level apprentices remain in demand as previous intakes progress through their second, third, and fourth years of apprenticeship. Maintaining a steady flow of new apprentices is essential to the long-term strength of our workforce and the future of our industry.

The continued success of our apprenticeship program depends on the dedication of our Local 324 Journeypersons, who provide invaluable training, mentorship, and guidance on the jobsite. Their commitment to developing the next generation of skilled tradespeople ensures that UA Local 324 continues to uphold the highest standards of craftsmanship, safety, and professionalism.

We are also actively seeking Journeypersons who hold a Red Seal Sprinkler Fitter Certification. Qualified sprinkler fitters continue to be in high demand throughout our jurisdiction, and this specialized trade remains one of the most sought-after skill sets in the industry. Individuals possessing this certification are encouraged to contact the Local, as employment opportunities remain strong and consistent.



BC Gov 241M Skilled Trades Announcement

Organizing Report

As we move through the summer of 2026, I am pleased to report that UA Local 324 remains strong, with our membership currently sitting at 1,317 members.

Commercial work across our jurisdiction continues to perform well, and all indications point toward another busy year for our signatory contractors, particularly in the Greater Victoria area. We are seeing a healthy number of projects coming out of the ground, creating ongoing opportunities for our members and reinforcing the strength of our local construction market.

In the Central Island region, work has remained steady. As the Cowichan District Hospital Replacement Project nears completion, we have successfully repurposed members from that project onto other jobs throughout the Duncan and Nanaimo areas. This transition has helped maintain employment opportunities and ensure our members continue to work as major projects move through their construction cycles.



Students Training from School District 62

Marketing Report

On May 1, 2026, our members working in the residential/commercial sector received a \$2.25 increase to their total wage package. As the cost of living continues to rise, so too must our wages. Protecting and improving our members' earning power is one of the primary reasons we exist as a Union.

Every time we negotiate a wage increase, my phone starts ringing from non-union workers. While we may not always have an immediate need for certain classifications of apprentices or Journeypersons, it is important that we keep our foot on the gas. Conducting interviews and speaking with prospective members is crucial to maintaining our presence and relevance in the industry. If we go quiet, people assume we have disappeared. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Our goal is to build and maintain a pool of qualified candidates who are ready when demand increases. We anticipate that demand will continue to grow as we move into the late summer construction season, and we want to be prepared to meet the needs of our contractors while providing opportunities for skilled tradespeople seeking a better future. Over the past several months, UA Local 324 has participated in a number of job fairs and career expos throughout our jurisdiction.

Some of these events involved providing career information to high school students who are exploring opportunities in the skilled trades. Others featured hands-on demonstrations using our Training Trailer, giving participants a firsthand look at the tools, skills, and technologies used by our members every day.

The message is getting through: a skilled trade ticket remains one of the best investments a person can make in their future. Young people, career changers, and experienced tradespeople alike are recognizing the value of earning a trade certification and building a career in the unionized construction industry.

We also introduced new UA Local 324 promotional merchandise this spring, and as always, it was received favourably by the membership. I encourage everyone to wear their Local 324 swag proudly and take the opportunity to introduce themselves when they encounter a fellow member. Networking strengthens our Brotherhood and Sisterhood, creates opportunities, and builds connections throughout our industry.

Most importantly, never underestimate the power of word-of-mouth. Our best advertising has always been, and continues to be, our membership. Every member is an ambassador for UA Local 324. The professionalism, skill, and pride you demonstrate on the jobsite are the strongest recruiting tools we have.

With strong market conditions, a solid project outlook, and continued demand for skilled UA members, we look forward to building on this momentum throughout the remainder of 2026.

Fraternally Yours,
Kevin Pivarnyik

Training Director's Report

The Joint Training Committee has remained busy delivering training courses, supporting outreach events, Women in Trades initiatives, and school district programs. Planning is also underway for the next Pipe Trades Academy and the Fall 2026 training schedule, ensuring our members continue to have access to high-quality training and certification opportunities. Some of the completed upgrading courses include:

- Victaulic Installation Best Practices
- RINNAI Residential & Commercial Solutions
- Advanced Plan Reading
- Plumber Red Seal Preparation
- Pipe Fabrication – Layout and Bending- 9-hour course delivered at Camosun College (next one will be at the UA Training Center). Full class delivered by young John Stalker and Landon Martin
- Introduction to Robotic Total Stations



Cross Connection Control Refresher Course



Tye Lindquist

(Sprinkler Fitter Bronze Medal - Skills BC Competition)

Upcoming Courses

- Introduction to Rigging Principles
- Seismic Restraint Best Practices
- NAUSC Programs
- Medical Gas Systems Installer
- Additional Red Seal Preparation Courses
- Backflow Recertification
- Exam for BCWWA (BC Water & Waste Association) next exam scheduled for October 31, 2026

Committee members discussed tutoring and mentoring opportunities for apprentices, bursary support, study materials, audio learning resources, and methods of increasing member engagement and participation.

Training Report Continued

Construction Foundation of BC (CFBC)

- UA Local 324 hosted a Newcomers to Trades event in partnership with the Construction Foundation of BC (CFBC). The event was well attended and provided newcomers to Canada with information about careers and opportunities in the skilled trades. CFBC has been working with the community through its Community Maintenance Worker Program, helping participants build practical skills and employment opportunities.



Paramabir Singh and Matthew Stewart
(Gold Medal Winners - Skills BC Competition)

Trades Skills Awareness

- The UA324 Training Centre hosted several Trades Skills Awareness workshops for local middle and high school students. Approximately 100 students participated in hands-on activities delivered by the two UA324 instructors.

Train-the-Trainer Program

- Instructors Kurtis Szymczak and James Smyth successfully completed the Train-the-Trainer program and are now qualified to deliver Forklift and Elevated Work Platform (EWP) training to UA324 members.





UA National Apprenticeship Competition
 Michael Gordon - UA Canadian Director of Training
 Michael McCartney - UA 324 Member
 Darren Vaux - UA 324 Training Director
 Mark Gamache - Milwaukee Rep



Trista Stevens

Training Report Continued

New Equipment Acquisitions

- Victaulic RG3400 with Pipe Stand and CC/SS OGS Roll Package.
- Ercolina TB60 Rotary Draw Bender supplied by Cascade.
- New removable Pipe Fabrication Pillars installed to support fabrication and spool training activities.
- JLG Scissor Lift from Leavitt arrived on June 9, 2026.

Public Open House – September 11, 2026

- Planning is underway for a public open house at the UA324 Training Centre. Vendors are currently being confirmed at this time. The event will be open to the public, contractors, industry partners, and community members.

Awards and Competitions

- Skills BC – Abbotsford, BC.
- UA Local 324 was represented by seven competitors. Results included two Gold Medals and one Bronze Medal.
- Skills Canada – Toronto, ON.
- UA Local 324 sent two competitors, who earned one Gold Medal and one Bronze Medal.
- UA National Apprenticeship Competition – Winnipeg, MB.
- UA Local 324 was represented by one competitor at the National Competition held June 8–12, 2026.

Fraternally Yours,
 Darren Vaux



Members training at the new UA 324 facility

THANK YOU FOR READING!

For additional resources, please visit the member section at www.ualocal324.com.

If you have any questions, please contact our office **250-382-0415**.